

released on 05.02.2007, the area coverage under wheat, which is a rabi crop, is estimated at 27.11 million hectares during 2006-07, which shows an increase of about 0.63 million hectare over 26.48 million hectares under wheat during 2005-06.

(c) and (d) The production of wheat for the year 2006-07 is estimated at 72.50 million tonnes which is 2.71 million tonnes more than the production of 69.35 million tonnes during 2005-06.

(e) and (f) As per assessment, the names of major wheat producing States where the production of wheat for 2006-07 shows an increase over that in 2005-06 is given in the table below alongwith the estimated percentage increase therein:

State	Increase in Production (%)
Uttar Pradesh	5.9
Madhya Pradesh	1.8
Haryana	9.5
Gujarat	25.8

Price of vegetables

423. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY:
SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the prices of onions, potatoes and other vegetables are rising alarmingly;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the action/steps taken by the Central Government to contain the rise in prices of vegetables in the country and more particularly in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The movement of Weekly Index for Wholesales Prices of onions, potatoes and other vegetables from 23rd December, 2006 to 10th February, 2007 which are given below shows the degree of rise in their prices.

**Wholesale Price Index (WPI) for Vegetables from week ending
23.12.2006 to 10.02.2007 (1993-94=100)**

Commodities	23/12/ 2006	30/12/ 2006	6/1/ 2007	13/1/ 2007	20/1/ 2007	27/1/ 2007	3/2/ 2007	10/2/ 2007
All	208	208.1	208.2	208.3	208.5	208.8	209.2	209.2
Potatoes	222.7	211.5	208	185.8	186.3	182.2	181.8	180.5
Sweet Potatoes	475.2	475.2	475.2	475.2	475.2	475.2	475.2	475.2
Onions	164.9	173.9	178.3	186.6	202.9	234.5	239.9	225.5
Tapioca	164.7	164.7	164.7	170.9	178.1	188.3	195.5	195.5
Ginger (Fresh)	149	149	149	149	149	149	149	149
Peas (Green)	153.7	125.6	103.4	103.4	103.4	108.2	95	90.2
Tomatoes	169.4	169.4	169.4	163.4	171.4	170.3	192.4	189.4
Cauliflower	92.6	92.6	103.5	88.4	77.4	87.2	81.7	89.9
Brinjal	240.4	265.8	261.7	271.8	306.2	293.2	254.6	245.8
Okra (Brinjal)	266.4	266.4	298.9	282.3	279.8	270.5	270.5	270.5
Cabbage	152.6	146	142.5	114.8	121.2	122.5	128.1	127.6

Source: Office of the Economic Adviser, Ministry of Commerce & Industry.

The trends in WPI from 23rd December, 2006 shows that the prices have increased for Onion, Tapioca, Brinjal and Okra (Bhindi) upto 3rd February, 2007. Thereafter, the prices of these commodities are either decreasing or stable.

(b) The reason for recent rise in prices of the above vegetables is the low market arrivals as compared to demand.

(c) Some of the measures taken to contain the price rise of onions include procurement and distribution of onion as well as monitoring of exports by National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED). NAFED has also raised the Minimum Export price (MEP) from \$ 220 per MT prevailing on 19-12-2006 to \$ 345 per MT with effect from 19-02-2007 in order to improve domestic availability. Prices of onions and other vegetables along with market arrivals are also being monitored regularly. Prime Minister also wrote to all State Governments to take measures to contain the price rise.